A MEDITATION ON THE MOTTO OF THE Rev. Mr. JOHN WESLEY's Seal;

Believe!—Love!—Obey!

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Preacher of the Gospel.

LONDON:

Printed for and sold by L. I. Higham, No. 39, Banks's-Court, Blue Anchor-Alley, Bunhill-Row; of whom may be had the AMETHYST, and the DAY-STAR, price 4d. each, by the same Author; also Watch Papers, price 1d.

1781

A

MEDITATION, &c.

THIS Motto is indeed a very ſhort one, but ſurely it contains *multum in parvo*, much in a little. It is replete with every inſtruction neceſſary to teach us how to be happy both in Time and in Eternity. Let us then examine a little into each of its particulars, beginning with the firſt;

BELIEVE!

When the Gaoler aſked of the Apoſtle, What he ſhould do to be ſaved? He was anſwered,—*Believe in the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and thou ſhalt be ſaved.* This anſwer is what remains on record to be given to every one who ſhall make the ſame Enquiry, to the end of the world. This being the caſe,

let us next enquire,—What it is to believe in Jeſus Chriſt? Our Saviour tells us, John iii. 16. that *God ſo loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoſoever believeth in Him, ſhould not periſh, but have everlaſting life.* Now the whole tenor of the Old Teſtament teaches us, that Chriſt ſhould come to be a ſacrifice, and a propitiation for the ſins of the world; to make an end of ſin and to finiſh tranſgreſſion; to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlaſting righteouſneſs. All which he has done, according to the Scriptures: being raiſed from the dead, and aſcended on high: for when He had by himſelf purged our ſins, he ſat down on the right hand of the Majeſty on High, to give Eternal Life to all that ſhould come unto him. In conſequence of this, pardon and peace, and remiſſion of ſins is preached in his name to all that believe. *To him give all the Prophets witneſs, that through his name, whoſoever believe in him ſhall receive remiſſion of ſins,* Acts x. 43. *Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveneſs of ſins:*

and

and by him all that believe are juſtified from all things, from which they could not be juſtified by the law of Moſes, Acts xiii. 38, 39. Now, as Chriſt's blood was ſhed for the remiſſion of ſins, ſo faith in his blood receives the remiſſion of ſins: and all ſuch are juſtified by Him (that is, by what He has done and ſuffered) from all things, from which they could not be juſtified by the law of Moſes: Chriſt being *the end of the law for righteouſneſs to every one that believeth. Being juſtified by faith* (ſays Paul) *we have peace with God, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.* And Paul not only ſaid ſo, but every true believer ſays, and experiences the ſame thing in his own ſoul, whereof the Holy Ghoſt is the witneſs, *He that believeth, hath the witneſs in himſelf.*

Thus we have ſeen, in brief, what it is to believe. And we are all called, we are all invited, we are all commanded to *believe in him whom God hath ſent.* May we all accept this great ſalvation, and by faith receive the atonement. Now let us proceed to the next particular of the Motto;

LOVE!

Love can never be ſeparated from true Faith. For Faith when it is real always works by Love. How is it poſſible that we can really believe, that God hath loved us, and forgiven us our ſins, and juſtified us thro' Chriſt's blood and righteouſneſs, without loving him again? It can never be: for as St. John ſays, *We love him becauſe he firſt loved us.* And he that ſays he believes in Jeſus Chriſt, and does not find love to God and Jeſus Chriſt flowing therefrom, he may be aſſured he deceives himſelf with only a notion of Faith. A picture of fire without heat; but a real fire cannot be without heat. A notional faith is without Love; but a real one is never without Love. *But to you*, all ye *who are* indeed *Believers*, *Chriſt is precious*; yea, more precious than all things. Love, then; and walk in Love; increaſe in Love: and let Love be your element, your buſineſs, your every thing: but remember! as the flower

flower withers when cut off from the ſtalk — ſo your Love will wither unleſs you ſtand faſt in Faith, and grow in Faith. Without you abide in Faith, the fire of your Love will go out. If this is the caſe with any, let them believe again, and Love will come again; for they always come and go together. Do we profeſs to believe? and do we profeſs to love? Say, my friends, is our Faith unfeigned? and is our Love without diſſimulation? If ſo let us proceed to the third and laſt particular of our Motto; which is,

O B E Y!

As a heart-felt Faith in Jeſus Chriſt, infallibly produces a heart-felt Love to him; ſo Obedience to his commands, will as infallibly follow, as the opening flowers and ripening fruits follow the genial heat and warmth of the ſun ſhining on them in the ſpring and ſummer ſeaſons. Chriſt ſaith, *If ye love me keep my Commandments.* What are his Commandments? Love to God, and Love to one another: the firſt ſhews itſelf in

in doing his will, both actively and passively. Doing what we know is our duty, and patiently suffering and resigning to his disposings of us in all things. The second shews itself by doing to others as we would be done by. In all loving and kind offices, in forgiving injuries; in all things being just and true; also in patience, long-suffering, and forbearance, and all other relative duties mentioned in the law. Also, loving our enemies, returning good for evil, and praying for our persecutors, &c. Obedience to God, is shewing the reality of our Love to him, in following the example of Christ in all his imitable perfections. And this Obedience is the result of having His Spirit dwelling in us, inclining us to walk in all the ways of holiness and piety: summed up in loving God with all our hearts, and our neighbour as ourselves: in which is contained all the precepts of the moral law—which law is written in the hearts of all true believers, as what they are called to obey. Vide 1 Cor. chap. xiii.

Thus

Thus we ſee in theſe three particulars—BELIEVE—LOVE—OBEY! are contained the very eſſentials of true religion. What then remains, my Friends, but that we give all diligence to be found *believing*, *loving*, *obedient followers* of the Lamb of God. If ſo, let us not quarrel about other matters. Let us keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and bear with one another's different opinions and forms that do not claſh with true Faith, true Love, and true Obedience. Let us not wrangle about Circumciſion, or Uncircumciſion, but let us contend for the Faith, which worketh by Love. Let the ſtrong bear the weak, and let the weak not be offended with the ſtrong. May the Motto of the Seal be engraven in all our hearts; and may our ſober, godly, and righteous lives and converſations, demonſtrate to all the world that it is really ſo. In a word; May we all BELIEVE; may we all LOVE; and may we all OBEY! ſo prays from his very heart, one who is a Lover of all the true Church of Chriſt; one who is for Chriſt's ſake their truly affectionate

Servant

Servant in the Miniſtry of the Goſpel of Peace and Salvation.

London, March 24, 1781.

COR. CAYLEY.

A PRAYER

For the Rev. Mr.

I—n years now far advanc'd, O may he prove
O—e'r flowing incomes of Celeſtial Love!
H—ear for thy ſervant, Lord, my heart-felt pray'r,
N—ew bleſſings give, to ſmooth his age's care.

W—hilſt here on earth, O may his latter days,
E—ffulgent ſhine with Truth's meridian blaze.
S—erene and cloudleſs make his ſetting ſun;
L—et him then ſhout, CHRIST's precious Blood hath won.
E—ach hoſt angelic then, O may he ſee,
Y—ield him their convoy ſweet, O LORD, to Thee.

March 24, 1781.

C. C.

The GOSPEL INVITATION,

To every one who hungers after Salvation.

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you Reſt. Matt. xi. 28.

I.

JUST as you are, to JESUS come!
Although a ſinner, there is room.
No longer reaſon, but believe:
And His Atonement now receive.

II.

Why ſhould you JESU's Blood reject,
And, from your deadneſs, Life expect,
The pardon of your ſins is free,
Through Him, who dy'd on Calv'ry's tree.

III.

His Death hath made an end of ſin,
His Blood was ſhed to waſh us clean;
The Sprinkling Blood the Heart makes pure,
And Faith, not works, receives the Cure.

IV. 'Tis

IV.

'Tis then, we feel a power to love,
Delighting in the things above:
From all our tumults then we ceaſe,
And find, in CHRIST, a ſinleſs Peace.

V.

A Peace, enlarging more and more,
Diſcloſing all the hidden ſtore
Of God's eternal Love and Grace,
Laid up for ſuch who CHRIST embrace.

VI.

Such ſouls, by JESU's ſtripes being heal'd,
Are by the HOLY-SPIRIT ſeal'd;
And enter that Sabbatic Reſt,
Which can't by Angels be expreſt.

VII.

Come, ſinners, then without delay,
Believe in CHRIST! He is The Way,
That leads from ſin, and death, and pain,
To fixt Repoſe and endleſs Gain.

March 24, 1781.

COR. CAYLEY.

FINIS.